HISTORICAL SKETCHES

Sherborn Tercentenary

1652 - 1952

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HISTORICAL SKETCHES

of the

TOWN OF SHERBORN
in
Massachusetts

compiled from articles written by the late

Francis Bardwell
of Sherborn

Published in 1952 in Commemoration of the

Three Hundredth Anniversary
of the settlement of

Sherborn, as Bogistow

in the year
1652

by the Historical Committee

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FOREWORD

Just fifty years ago, Francis Bardwell (1867-1950), author of these Sherborn Historical Sketches, was Town Clerk. His brother-in-law, Robert H. Leland, was Town Treasurer and its lawyer, the local conveyancer, familiar with the title history of every woodlot, meadow, cranberry bog, house lot and farm from the earliest settlement, three hundred years ago. These two passionate lovers of Sherborn, were near neighbors, with a common relish for past and present local drama, pathos, and humor. Whatever either learned, his crony daily gayly shared. Of these exchanges, the sole chronicler was Francis Bardwell. His rare gift of expression, whether in poetry or prose (exemplified in his exquisite and poignant "The Adventure of Old Age") qualified him in unique degree. Regrettably, however, his increasingly absorbing career, of national repute, in charitable and social work, deterred him from the preparation of any formal history. Nevertheless, these, his informal tales of Old Ways, Aged People, Ancient Houses, extend all the way from recent happenings to his memory of chats with Sherborn characters alive when George Washington rode through town.

Our Town Report of fifty years ago records in its roster of officers nearly every name our historian mentions as prominent among the early settlers:

Babcock, Barber, Coolidge, Dearth, Dowse, Gardner, Grout,
Holbrook, Leland, Lewis, Paul, Sanger, Vorestus, Ware, Whitney

Although today's roster retains of these ancient names only: Barber, Dowse, Holbrook, Leland, Paul, Sanger, many of these descendants of our earliest settlers are honored citizens of Sherborn today.

Consequently, modest though the present offering may appear, it should ever hold a sure place on the bookshelf of every Sherborn resident, past or present, who loves our Sherborn, or any place in it.

Henry M. Channing

Members of Historical Committee:

Helen E. Homer
Mary F. Allison
Henry M. Channing
Newman Dearth
Robert Sanger Leland

INTRODUCTION

This Town of Sherborn, Massachusetts, gets its name from the ancient Town of Sherborne, situated on the bank of the River Yeo, in the County of Dorset, England. Sherborne, it is said, is of Saxon origin and means "pure water". The Indian name was Bogistow, Nipmuck dialect.

Sherborn is an original town. That is - it was not set off from any existing town or towns, such as Wellesley which was originally a part of Needham. Also, Sherborn is the Mother-Town of South Framingham; that is, that portion of Framingham lying south of the Sudbury River was originally Sherborn. Here dwelt Thos. Eames and family in 1676, and their home was destroyed and members of the family taken captive by the Indians in King Philip's War. This part of Sherborn was incorporated as Holliston. The inhabitants of Sherborn were given the township of Douglas and the Proprietor's records are among the Sherborn archives.

The Town of Dublin, N. H. was settled by families from Sherborn, but they sent their vital statistics to Sherborn for record as Monadnock District No. 3. Also, more men of Sherborn birth went into the Revolutionary War from Dublin than from Sherborn. You see, those who went to Dublin were all young men.

Sherborn is also the mother-town of Sangerville, Maine. This Township was owned by Col. Galvin Sanger, and his brother, Joseph, and the first settlers all went from Sherborn.

Let us now come back to our Sherborn. On the 7th of the 3rd month of 1662, we find the inhabitants of Bogistow petitioning the General Court to become "A Town of Ourselves" with much stress laid upon the need of "Divine Worship". The first settlers came here in 1652, so this petition was made ten years after, and a fair start had been made. Beside the names of Wood, Holbrook, and Leland, the town's first three families, we find Morse, Hill, Brick, "Bullward", Fairbanks, "Kendill" and one or two more not perpetuated in the town's history. This petition was not favorably acted upon by the General Court.

So again, on October 7, 1674, the second and successful petition was sent to the General Court. In this petition the name to be given the new town was left blank. Additional family names to those on Petition I were Adams, Perry, and Bullen. The town became incorporated October 7, 1674. The General Court's reply stated - "And the name of the Town to be called Sherborn".

One of the most prominent men of this Colonial period was John Hull, Silversmith and Mint Master of Boston, the originator of the Pine Tree Shilling. Hull was a man of influence and wealth. He became a great land-owner; his possessions extending into Rhode Island, and the well-known Point Judith was named for his wife. Sometime between 1649 and 1674, Hull secured a grant of 500 acres in Bogistow. This included all of Sewell's Meadow and much of the center of Sherborn.

His daughter married Judge Samuel Sewell (of witchcraft fame) and Hull gave her as her dowry her weight in Pine Tree Shillings. Tradition says she was a buxom lass which meant more shillings.

John Hull was not born in Sherborne, England, but it is not improbable that Hull's ancestors were of that town, and so trustworthy and prominent were the Sherborne Hulls that one was appointed guardian of the minor children of the unfortunate Raleigh, whose home was at Sherborne.

It so seems but natural that John Hull of Boston, Mint Master, Silversmith, Great Landed Proprietor and father of Mrs. Judge Sewell, should look with pride to the family of Hull, and desire to perpetuate the name of this family's home town.

Our ancestors struggled with spelling of names. At various times the name of our town appears as Shearborn, Sherburn, Shelborn, Sherborne, and Sherborn.

FIRST SETTLERS

As the question sometimes arises "Just how did our first settlers really live?" it would be well to go into their housing and living briefly. First, they built no log houses in New England. The log cabins on this side of the Atlantic were introduced by the Swedish Colonists, who founded Delaware; from them this form of primitive construction spread west and south. But, our New England settlers knew nothing of such construction and began in Plymouth with wattle and mud construction and then built frame dwellings.

It is probable that Sherborn's first three families built modest one story houses and hewed the heavy timbers and frames from trees on the spot -- the boards, planks, shingles and probably clapboards came from Medfield, and they waited for the river to freeze over so that transportation would be easier. Mr. Gookin, the town's first minister, had a house built for him by the townspeople in 1679 and its dimensions were 38 feet by 20 feet. This was the minister's house and probably larger than the other houses in town. So it is likely that homes of Wood, Leland and Holbrook, built twenty-five years before Gookin's were smaller, and as glass was expensive and hard to get, there were few windows. The chimneys were probably stone and laid in clay, at least, to the roof. The furnishings were simple and probably home-made. If there was a chair, it was the master's chair. Children sat on forms or joint stools and the one table served for many purposes besides serving meals. Clothing was made from wool or linen or a mixture — there was no cotton and all cloth was spun and woven in the home.

Under these primitive conditions the families of the three founders lived for five years, from 1652 - 1657-58, and they must have been lonely years. When they could, these families went to Medfield to meetings, the only break in the monotony.

Then in 1657-8 came new neighbors who had been in Medfield, old friends. There were four families — Bullard, Fairbanks, Brick, and Hill, and they took up land and settled on the plateau between the Charles River and the way to East Medway — now Millis.

Holbrook lived near Death's Bridge, and Hill settled nearest him, then Brick, who had married Hill's sister Mary, settled between Hill and Fairbanks, and then Bullard, whose house would now be in Millis. Fairbanks and Bullard settled on the shore of Bogistow or South End Pond. Later these four and the original three built a garrison house of stone on the shore of the pond and known as Bullard Fort, which was beseiged by the Indians in "Phillip's War", February, 1676. In the same year, 1658, David Morse came from Medfield and built north of Wood, near where the Saltonstall house is; this was a garrison house and, following Morse, came his two sons-in-law, Edward West, who married Mary, and John Perry, who married her sister Bethia. West was Sherborn's first schoolmaster (1694), and eventually settled near the corner of Main Street and Railroad Avenue. He was given a sizeable tract of land "on the plain", and this became known as Edward's Plain. . . the Playground is part of his holdings. He was a very popular man, beloved and respected. He left no children.

Daniel Morse was the son of Samuel of Medfield, a prominent man in Dedham and Medfield. Colonel Morse of Cromwell's Army was of this family, and

Daniel Morse's sister Mary married Deacon Samuel Bullen, who later came to Sherborn before 1674. Daniel Morse called his holdings in Sherborn "The Farm", and so it became Farm Pond and Farm Road, names that have persisted for nearly three hundred years now.

Of the other early settlers, coming before 1680, space will only allot a brief mention. Henry Adams drew land in 1660. This fell in what is now Holliston. He was killed at his door by the Indians in 1676. Deacon Samuel Bullen, mentioned above, was an incorporator in Dedham, Medfield and Sherborn. He was in Sherborn from 1674, a tenant on Hill's farm and probably built on what is now Maple Street, opposite Brush Hill Lane. His son Elisha lived where the Reading house is Deacon Samuel's first signature is spelled Boleyn, since corrupted to Bullen, Bullens, Burlen, etc. Geneology in England shows his descent from an uncle of Ann Boleyn, mother of Queen Elizabeth.

Thomas Eames was here in 1674, living in Sherborn then, but now the Mount Waite district in Framingham. His house was burned by Indians in 1676, members of his family slain and some carried captive to Canada. One daughter was later "redeemed" and married a Sherborn man.

John Death came in 1677, settled first at West Sherborn and later the family bought of heirs of Thomas Holbrook on the river and gave their name to the bridge there.

Jonathan Whitney was another Watertown man coming to Sherborn in 1678 and built where the Paul House is. This farm remained in the Whitney family until 1825. From Watertown, also, came John Coolidge in 1680 or before, and built on Coolidge Street where the house owned by Mr. Badger now is.

Nathaniel Sanger and his brother Richard came in 1680 and settled first where the Town Library is. Nathaniel returned to Watertown; Richard stayed, bought land opposite and erected a home on the west side of the street in 1729; later bought the Gookin house and attached it to this house on the south side. Here his grandson Captain Samuel kept a tavern. This old place must have been a sprawling mansion, for Mrs. Sarah Sanford, (nee Sanger) born in that house and granddaughter of Capt. Samuel, told me there were eleven outside doors.

Watertown also gave us Daniel Bigelow, who settled in West Sherborn prior to 1690. Later a branch of the family settled at Farm Pond.

Abraham Cousins (Cozzens) was in Sherborn in 1678, and married Mary Eames who was the "redeemed" captive; he settled in West Sherborn. The Cousins' geneology shows the family lived up to their name and had a habit of marrying cousins.

In 1679 William Rider came and settled where Dr. Travis lives. His son was a Town Clerk and a wonderful penman, as his records show. William Rider had formerly been of Cambridge and Watertown.

Also in 1679 came Deacon Benoni Larned, drew land, and built where the Richardson house on Main Street now is. I rely on my memory when I say I saw a copy of Benoni's will in which he willed his breast plate and red breeches.

The same year came Thomas Sawin, and erected a mill on Chestnut Brook.

He furnished the lumber for the first church in 1680. Later he moved to South Natick and built the mill owned by the late Preston Morse. He was an ancestor of Martha (Patty) Sawin, whose generous gift made the Sawin Academy possible.

On the first petition for incorporation also appeared the name of Robert Kentil. He was evidently the ancestor of the Kendall family and lived in North Sherborn, now Framingham.

Other families who came during the 17th century include the Twitchells, the first building in 1686 what is now the Fessenden place in West Sherborn, and so far as can be proved by documentary evidence, the oldest house in Sherborn.

Ebenezer Babcock came in 1696 from Milton and occupied the farm next to Twitchell's, now the Hildreth place.

The Gouldings came from Holliston in 1705 and the family held their farm for many years. Captain Joseph Ware came in 1710, having married a granddaughter of Nicholas Wood and his daughter Zipporah married Curtis Goulding. Ware bought one-half of the Hill farm in 1735 for 750 pounds, and lived where Mr. Selfe does now. He had a negro slave named Duty. Richard Sanger, 3rd had a slave and the Rev. Baker, second minister, had more than one slave.

When the town was incorporated in 1674, it had a population of 108; in 1721, 408; in 1764, 600.

Sewell's Brook has its source in what those of a former generation used to call "The Judge's Meadow" crosses under Main Street by the old Ware house (now Selfe's) flows through Ware's Meadow under the railroad tracks and road, swerves south and passing under what is now Forest Street flows on to join the Charles River.

If you stand on the culvert where the brook passes under Forest Street and look southwest into what is now a pasture, your sight will be covering the place where the first house in Sherborn was erected by Sherborn's first settler, Nicholas Wood, in 1651. Wood came to Sherborn when he purchased land with Thomas Holbrook and Andrew Pitcher from Milton via Medfield. For his time, Wood was a man of means and a large land owner, for when he died in 1669, he left an estate of 1,049 pounds, a large sum for those days, and an elaborate will as to its disposal.

Mehitable, his fifth child, was born in this house he had built July 22, 1655, and was the first Anglo-American child born in Sherborn. In 1671 she married Captain Joseph Morse, and so became the pioneer mother of many old Sherborn families.

Wood had two sons. Jonathan, born in 1651, was killed by Indians near Death's Bridge February 21, 1676. The day following, his daughter Silence was born at the Bullard Fort. She married John Holbrook, son of Thomas. The other son Eleager was born in 1662, and was with his brother at Death's Bridge, was scalped, and left for dead, but survived and married. He was said to be "strange". He left daughters only, so the name Wood was not perpetuated. Wood was the first settler.

Leaving the site of the Wood house, go west on Forest Street. On your

left is the large old house known as the Joe Walter Barber house, now occupied by Mr. Johnson. It is more than possible that this is the house built by Captain Morse on land of his wife's, inherited from her father. It is certainly a very old house, and we know that here Morse built. From Forest Street we bear left into Snow Street; not named for any Snow family, but when Sherborn roads were given names and called streets, one of the neighbors suggested Snow — "For all the snow in all the storms blows into this road".

On the corner of Snow and Main Streets stands the old Daniels place, now owned by Mr. Franklin King, originally a Leland place and later sold by Colonel Joshua Leland to Joseph Coolidge who sold it to Timothy Daniels. Beyond this house, as you go south, is a large field formerly a peach orchard. In this spot Henry Leland erected his first house — this was burned, leaving his wife and child homeless during his absence. His second house was built nearer the river and also nearer his brother-in-law Thomas Holbrook. The old Leland house on the west side of the road and facing south, now owned by Mr. MacDougal, was a "salt box" until remodelled, and was built after 1700.

Henry Leland was the son of Hopestill, who was born in England in 1580 (Elizabeth's reign), and died in Sherborn in 1655. Hopestill came to Massachusetts in 1624. Henry had five children. His wife was Margaret Babcock. He died in 1680, just one hundred years after his father was born. The name "Hopestill" has persisted in the Leland family. Henry owned a large estate in land, and his heirs continued to draw land in his name after his death. His sister Experience was Thomas Holbrook's first wife. Of interest is the fact that in his will, 1680, he mentioned "The Old Field" of 11 acres. This is in West Sherborn, lying west of Brush Hill and east of the road which is now Western Avenue. As he called it "The Old Field" back in 1680, it was probably a cleared field when it came into his possession and a former garden spot of the Indians. But it is one of the 17th century names that has survived. Of all the great holdings of Henry Leland, one farm remains in the family by direct succession, and that is Hopestill Farm owned by James F. Leland, coming down to the ninth generation from old Hopestill. This, as far as I know, is the only farm in Sherborn held by one family since the settlement of the town.

Where the old Dearth-How house, formerly known as River Bank Lodge, owned by Mr. David Forbes, stands today, or very near it, Thomas Holbrook built his first house in 1652. There he planted the first orchard in Sherborn. His second house was nearer Leland's, the brother of his wife Experience. Holbrook had four wives and twelve children. His son John married Silence Wood, granddaughter of Nicholas. He settled on land of his wife's - part of the Wood farm - and built on the north side of Forest Street. His first child was born in 1694 or 1695. . John. There seems to be no reason to doubt that the house still standing, owned by Mrs. Ella Holbrook, was the one he built, and has been lived in since by Holbrooks. It is the usual procedure in ascertaining the age of a house to put it down at the time of the birth of the eldest child. One thing is certain — he and Silence couldn't have lived with her family — she was an orphan since birth, so it seems reasonable to place this old house as a 17th century habitation. The late Joseph Dowse, for many years Town Clerk, told me that in the 1850's it was said that more than half of the families in Sherborn at that time were descended from this marriage, and today there are quite a few who can claim descent. Thomas Holbrook died in 1705, outliving by many years Wood and Leland.

BUILDING OF THE CHURCHES

Both petitions for Incorporation stressed the need of the community in the matter of Divine Worship. The petitioners wanted their own Meeting House and settled minister, a place for the meeting of the congregation on the Lord's Day, and a leader of their own who could expound and deliver a proper "lecture".

Captain Joseph Morse married the first white child born in Sherborn, 1655. She was the daughter of Nicholas Wood, and they were married in 1671. Their first child was born in 1673, and it is probable that Morse built his house sometime between 1671 and 1673. It was in this house that the first religious services in Sherborn were held. It must have been a larger house than most houses in the settlement, because on the Lord's Day the services were attended by ten families.

The Morses and Woods, to the east, and Holbrooks, Lelands, Hills, Brocks, Bullards, and Fairbanks, to the west... this would seem to point to the fact that the present Johnson house (the Joe Walter Barber place) is the original Joseph Morse house.

When the petition of 1674 was granted and the town was incorporated, one of the first matters that came up for consideration was the choice of a site. Remember, town business and parish business was the same... it was Church and State for long over a century! The setup in Sherborn was the customary theocracy of that parish.

In 1674 the center of population was still along the west bank of the Charles, but others had come in to build homes in more remote parts — Adams, in what is now Holliston, a settler or two on the Plains, etc.

However, the fathers decided on a site in South Sherborn, about half way between the Joseph Morse house and what is now Main Street. This was on an eminence southwest of the new South Cemetery. It is probable that the older settlers desired their Meeting House not too far from the Morse house where they had met for the past ten or more years. There is no actual record of any controversy, but there must have been a difference of opinion, because the General Court appointed three men to confer as to a location of the Meeting House, with the result that the hill south of Edward's Plain was chosen and an area 20 rods square set off as the common and site of the Meeting House. This land was set off to the Parish, and NOT to the Town

Then came the period of "Philip's War" and its attendant discomforts, so that plans for building had to be delayed until 1680.

Thomas Sawin had erected a sawmill in the west part of the town on a small water right and he was employed to get out the lumber and build the building. In all, 53 pounds was paid to Sawin for material and labor. In our money that was $265.00. Where did they find the cash? They found it! There were no mortgages in 1680, here in the Province. Where the White Church now stands was the site.

There is no record of its size or capacity. It must have been a rough primitive building, unheated. And when you consider that Divine Worship was an all day affair, with a morning and afternoon session and that morning "lecture" was

usually two hours or over, and the afternoon "lecture" at least an hour, and the temperature inside the building was the same as it was outside. Well — our forefathers were tough — they had to be!

In 1705, repairs at a cost of 20 pounds had to be made. All town meetings, as well as religious services, were held in this Meeting House.

By 1721 the church had evidently been outgrown and there was a movement to build a new church, and a controversy as to the site. The north part of town had become a part of Framingham, but what is now Holliston had grown steadily, for in 1723, thirteen freeholders in that section of Sherborn petitioned to become a town. A committee was chosen to consider a site, and in their choice of location it is evident the committee was influenced by the Holliston contingent, for the committee chose a spot on the Dirty Meadow Road, now Western Avenue, near the westerly end at Washington Street. The town refused to concur with the committee, and so the Town of Holliston separated and came into being as a town in 1724.

As to the second edifice... we know more of this one. It was erected in front of the site of the old church nearer the road; it was 40 feet by 32 feet, and had a 20 foot post. It was completed in 1725. The space around the walls was filled by square pews built at the owner's expense. Still, no manner of heating. It is no wonder people of that period had chilblains, even if intensely interested in going to meetings.

In 1770 the second church had to be enlarged. It was cut in two, the west end (front) moved 20 feet and the space built in so the building was 60 feet by 32 feet. There were overcrowded, not empty, pews in 1770. People who remember this church have told me that the pews were square and there was a gallery on the south side; also, that there were four outside doors. There was no chimney, and the building was unheated. The families sat in the high square pews; detached persons, colored persons, and Indians sat in the gallery in charge of the tithing man and his "wand". There were a few colored folks owned by Sherborn people. Capt. Joseph Ware's "Duty" was one. Richard Sanger had one. The family of Rev. Baker had two or three, and when he granted them freedom, the town fathers were afraid they might become public charges.

This second church was occupied as a Meeting House and a Town House for over one hundred years. As a bell was given to the church in 1794, a belfry was added in which to hang the bells. This was not the present bell, as a new one was cast in 1830 for the new church, and the old bell was used to furnish some of the metal. These bells were both cast in Medway by the Holbrooks. The first bell was cast by the first Holbrook who had learned his trade at Paul Revere's bell foundry in Canton, so in a way it was a Revere Bell. The bell was regarded as more or less a town bell, was rung every week day at noon, Fourth of July at sunrise and sunset, and served as a "Passing Bell" to toll out the passing of aged town folks. It was a stroke for every year of a person's age, after the preliminary strokes.

In 1770, the town voted to "culler or paint the clapboards of the Meeting House... an ORING CULLER... all to be done handsomely and fashionably and workmanlike".

We are wont to think of the early settlers as men and women who strode

through life along the straight and narrow path; under the man's arm a Bible and over his shoulder a musket. Maybe it is just as well to have ideals as to one's forebears... BUT... why in 1732 did the town "grant ten shillings to repair the old or build new stocks"? Why stocks in Sherborn? And if they had fallen into disrepair in 1732, they were probably set up along about 1685; that is, when the first church was erected. Were they ever used? If so, by whom? They were on the common not far from the Meeting House. Did they simply stand as a warning, perhaps? They were where all could see them, and everybody went to meetings or were fined.

In 1749, the ladies of the congregation, evidently provoked at being "pushed around" in the Meeting House, asked to be allowed to put their chairs in the "alleys". This request was promptly denied (it was a man's world then). But I notice that directly after this "the selectmen made alterations for the convenience of the women", and then, as now, the ladies won the point.

Much could be written about the second edifice, for it was here that the stirring meetings of the Revolutionary period were held and the patriotic votes passed.

The third building, now in use, was erected in 1830. This is the original site of the first Meeting House. So that it may not be forgotten, let us state here this fact: This church was an exact copy of the church in the Town of Sutton, which had been erected some years before, but since destroyed by fire.

Its pleasing simplicity, in the Greek style, which was coming into vogue about that time, was and is extremely good taste. It is the characteristic New England Meeting House on the hill. It faces west. Was the idea of a west front taken from the old English cathedrals and Norman churches in England? This western frontage gave us the expression of "gone west" meaning death, because the deceased was borne from the church toward the west.

Also, may I mention that all the larger trees on the Common were set out, each by a young man of the Parish. There were many more than now. The stone steps at the northeast corner of the common were installed by Calvin P. Sanger as a short cut home for the organist of that time. She lived in a house across Main Street.

Up to 1854, church music was furnished by an orchestra (mostly strings), and the choir. The organ, built by the Holbrooks of Medway, was given by the ladies and by subscription in 1854. Some controversy about it... "new fangled"! I believe the pulpit, which is original, was cut down and made lower. Anyway, this building was heated!

The town and church dissolved partnership as a joint concern in 1809. After that the business of each was conducted separately, although for several years after, both used the Meeting House for both worship and town meetings.

THE STORY OF THE MINISTERS OF SHERBORN

They have just celebrated the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Roxbury Latin School — the oldest school which has been uninterruptedly carried on in the United States.

The founder was John Eliot. Later Eliot became known as the Apostle to the Indians, and set up a church and school at what is now South Natick. First, he gathered the Indians about him beneath a great oak tree, which survived until recently.

To Eliot, from time to time, came young men to help him in his work. Among them was one Daniel Gookin, who was born in 1650, and graduated from Harvard College in 1669. It will be of interest to mention some of the facts about the Gookin family. Daniel's family were nonconformists, and left England in the 16th century to take up residence in the north of Ireland. In the early part of the 17th century Daniel's branch left Ireland for America, but made the mistake of going first to Virginia. Here they found the Established Church much stronger and more rigid than in Ireland, and so for conscience sake embarked for the Bay Colony and settled in Cambridge. Here Daniel, and also his father, became a Magistrate and a Major General, with much to do with Indian affairs.

The settlers at Sherborn, having completed their Meeting House and having built a neat little parsonage, were casting about for a spiritual leader. Many of the Sherborn congregation had attended the service at John Eliot's Indian Church at Natick, and had become attached to one of his young assistants, Daniel Gookin. It seems they were quite unanimous in this choice, and with the permission of the Magistrate and Clergy of that time, extended a hearty call to Gookin to become their minister.

This call was in 1681, but he was not ordained as Sherborn's first settled minister until March, 1685, although it is more than probable he came here before his official ordination.

Judge Samuel Sewell has an entry in his famous diary about the ordination. There were eleven ministers present and the "Fellows of the College". Gookin had been made a Fellow in 1673. Sewell says, "but six brethren present and three by the name of Mors. Only Major General and self of the magistrates. So you see the six brethren were sandwiched in between the Clergy and the Magistrates." Why was Sewell so interested?

Well, Sewell's wife's mother had been Judith Quincy Hull, and the Reverend Daniel married for his first wife Elizabeth Quincy. It is probable that the Quincy influence had much to do with Gookin's appointment. There will be further reference to the Quincy family. Of Mr. Gookin's seven children, the first four were children of Elizabeth Quincy. Mr. Gookin's second wife was Bethiah Collient. He served the Sherborn Church for 34 years, but during the last seven years he was indisposed in body and mind.

In 1710 because of this it was voted by Town and Church to have an assistant to the pastor. Daniel Baker was chosen. Shortly after, Mr. Gookin passed away and Mr. Baker was made settled minister. Mr. Baker was born in Dedham, and was also a graduate of Harvard College. He married a Quincy. Mr.

Baker served as Sherborn pastor from 1712 to 1731.

Land was purchased from James Coolidge. A house was erected for Mr. Baker opposite the Church and Common. Like Gookin, he married a second wife.

One thing seems evident about Mr. Baker; he enjoyed lecturing, expounding and preaching. Many of his sermons were published, and none were brief.

Mr. Baker was well off, aside from his salary, probably because of money inherited from his first wife. He was one of the three men in Colonial Sherborn known to keep slaves. Richard Sanger and Capt. Ware were the other two. Mr. Baker freed his slaves. There was some opposition in the town to Mr. Baker's freeing the slaves, as some members of his congregation were afraid they might become public charges.

The third settled minister was Rev. Samuel Porter. This family was originally of Winsor, Conn., and the emigrant was John, and fifth in descent from him, and the fourth bearing the name of Samuel was the Sherborn pastor. He was born in 1709, graduated from Harvard College in 1730, and was pastor in a church in Hadley, from whence he came to Sherborn to be the third pastor. His uncle Aaron was graduated from Harvard College in 1709 and married Susanna, daughter of Major Stephen Sewell of Salem, and brother of our Judge Sewell, who again records in his trusty diary that he went to this wedding and gave the bridegroom a book he had bought and read and that evidently appealed to him. I mention this to show the decided influence of the Quincy and Sewell families in the choice of all three of the earliest pastors of the town. Mr. Porter lived where Mr. Baker did.

Rev. Samuel Porter died in 1788, and the property was bought by the Sangers and the present house was built in 1819.

From what we have learned of Mr. Porter, he was highly respected by everyone, a kind friend, and a good neighbor. It was on this place the Porter apple was produced, not by Mr. Porter, but by Capt. Samuel Sanger, and named in honor of Mr. Porter.

October 11, 1759, Rev. Samuel Locke was chosen to succeed his father-in-law, Mr. Porter. This Mr. Locke was from Lancaster; was graduated from Harvard College in 1755; pastor at Sherborn from 1759-1770; inaugurated as President of Harvard, March 21, 1770; resigned as such in December, 1773 and died in 1778 at the age of 47. He had received the degree D.D. from Harvard. Locke was probably the best educated minister of Colonial times. He had a brilliant mind, was chosen President of Harvard at 39, but unfortunately he was indiscreet and was forced to resign in 1773 to return to Sherborn. His resignation created a furor, and according to Rev. Edward E. Hale, brought forth the statement from the then President of Yale (Dwight or Styles), "Let Harvard have her battered and tarnished silver; Yale prefers honest pewter."

Locke returned to Sherborn and the Porter home owned by his wife. Here he set up a classical school that was famous. He was a patriot in the Revolutionary struggle and a member of the Town's Committee of Correspondence, serving with other prominent men — Capt. Richard Sanger, Joe Twitchell, Sam Bullard, Daniel Whitney, and Joe Phipps.

By great good luck the mahogany Pembroke table used by Samuel Locke, and upon which he wrote the records of the committee, is preserved. It was purchased by James Bullard at an auction of Mrs. Locke's effects in 1788, and came down three generations in the Bullard family and is still owned in Sherborn. During the First World War, records of the Committee of Correspondence were written on this same table.

With Porter and Locke ends the formative period of the Sherborn Church, a period of nearly 100 years. The town was fortunate in having such a group of scholarly leaders.

With the advent of Rev. Elijah Brown came a change. Brown was the minister of the Revolutionary period and was an individual of unquestioned patriotism. He owned and lived in the house now occupied by Mr. Jacob Flagg. He was pastor from 1770 to 1816. He, like Locke, conducted a classical school. He was popular — perhaps because his lectures in cold weather were from ten to fifteen minutes, no longer; quite a change from two hours.

Shearjashub Bourne Townsend was the next pastor. He was evidently descended from Shearjashub Bourne for whom the Town of Bourne is named. Wherever we find this biblical name, it is usually followed by "Bourne" as though that family had the sole right to it.

The last pastor of the Sherborn Church to be mentioned in this sketch is a Sherbonite of Sherborn ancestry. He graduated from Harvard in 1804. Mr. Amos Clark was so near our own time that the opinion of the townspeople of whom many remember him must be considered, and that opinion seems to be unaminous. He was an ideal shepherd of his flock, and a dear friend to all the people of the town, although he filled the pulpit during the most trying time in the church history. Of him, and his memory, it can be said in the words of Goldsmith, "You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips."

One of the oldest houses in town, built possibly before 1700, at the foot of "Bull's Hill", now Washington Street.

SHERBORN HOUSES BUILT BEFORE 1720

The brief descriptions of the houses in this commentary embrace those dwellings built in the Pilgrim Century, from 1620 to 1720. Many of these homes were of the true Salt Box type, or the 1-2 houses, so called in the first nation census about 1790.

It is perhaps best to begin with the Farm and South portion of the town, where the first settlers erected their homes.

The present farm house on the Gelston King place, on the land east of Farm Pond:- Daniel Morse came about 1656 and erected his home, which was a garrison house, near the present Saltonstall place. This house is gone. He had nine children, and the Farm was broken up and divided among his children. (They were builders.) His son Daniel, born 1640, married Elizabeth Barbour. He inherited the land east of Farm Pond. His first child, Elizabeth, was born in 1670. It seems probable that this Daniel Morse built the old house on the King place.

From here we go west, following Forest Street, and come to the old Holbrook house on the right hand side of the road. This house was built by John Holbrook, son of Thomas - the first settler of that name in Sherborn. John, about 1694, married Silence Wood, the child born in the Bullard Fort during the Indian raid in February 1676, and it was on land she inherited from her father they built this house. As their first child John was born 1694-5, it is probable this house was built not later than that date. Since then, this house has always been in the Holbrook family, and from it Jonathan went into the Revolution to be killed at the Battle of White Plains.

Continuing on Forest Street, crossing the railroad track, the first house on the left is known as the Joe Walter Barber place. Originally, this was a Morse Place. Captain Joseph Morse came from Medfield to Sherborn, and in 1671 married Mehitable Wood, daughter of Nicholas Wood. She was born July 22, 1655, the first white child born in Sherborn. She was aunt of Silence Wood Holbrook, and like John Holbrook's the house was built on Wood land. Is the house still standing, the original house? First, there is no evidence of an earlier house. Second, for an old house it is a large one, which goes to prove it is the original, because it was at Captain Morse's that divine service was held before the first meeting house was erected. To hold the church goers, it must have been the largest house in Sherborn, as the population of the town in 1674 was slightly over 100. Doubtless, there have been many changes in the house since its erection. It now faces north, while almost all the first houses built faced south, but we do not know how it faced when built, nor where the road was then.

Captain Morse was a nephew of Col. Morse of Cromwell's army, and near relative of Daniel. There are evidently no other houses still standing in this part of Sherborn dating before 1720. The Joshua Leland house on Main Street, near where Bullard Street branches off, was built by Joshua Leland about 1733 and was the third Leland house in this vicinity; the first burned, the second was moved north and stood in the side yard of the Franklin King place, and later taken down. It was a small one-story affair, painted red, as I remember it.

So we turn north down Main Street, pass several old houses, pass Sewell's Brook, and on the bank, facing south, is the Ware house, now Selfe's. It was a Salt Box, but has lost its long sloping roof. The exact date of this house is a matter of controversy. It stands on the west part of the Hull grants. It was deeded to Captain John Ware in 1734 by Judith Cooper, daughter of Judge Sewell and granddaughter of John Hull. As the deed is in existence (Judge Sewell witnessed the signatures), it showed the house and barn and about 200 acres of land. The price was 750 pounds, $3,750.00, a large sum of money for the times, and it would seem that the buildings must have been fairly imposing and the water rights of value. Morse states Ware built the house, but Morse sometimes slips. The diaries of both Hull and Judge Sewell tell us they visited the tenant of this property, one Adams, and the Judge made long visits. Ware built a mill on the brook in 1710. He had married a daughter of Eleazer Wood, and when he first came to Sherborn lived in the big Wood house built in 1705, now gone.

There seems every evidence that the old house was built before 1734, and was probably the tenant house where Adams lived when visited by Hull and his son-in-law. The Judge wasn't the type to make long visits, unless he was comfortable. Also, he brought Mrs. Sewell on at least one of these visits. Mrs. Forbes, of Worcester, an authority on old houses and mother of Esther Forbes (Paul Revere), told me she felt sure this house reached back to 1700 and possibly earlier. In this house was born Rev. Henry Ware, D. D., and Judge Asher, L. L. D., both instructors at Harvard College, and from it went Joseph to the Revolution. (He is said to have lost one arm by the same cannon ball that had killed John Holbrook at his side.)

The old red house on what was the James Leland place, then Cabot, was built by a Leland, and for the most part always housed Lelands for many generations. As near as we can determine, it was probably built about 1717 by Deacon William Leland on part of the large Leland land holdings. Deacon William was the fifth of the ten children of Deacon Hopestill Leland and his wife Abigail Hill. This Hopestill was the son of Henry, the original Leland settler, and grandson of Hopestill, who was born in England in 1580. Deacon Hopestill was born in Dorchester, then his father took up his permanent residence in Sherborn. The first house was burned, and the second house built about 1655. Deacon William was born February 11, 1692. He married Mehitable Brick, and their first child was born December 1717, which places the date of the building of this ancient dwelling. In those days, when a man married, he either had a house already, or set about building one, as there was a perpetual shortage in housing at that period.

Deacon William was a prominent man, served as Town Clerk for five years, and representative to the General Court in 1735. There were six children in the family. Simeon, born 1730, evidently inherited the farm. He had six children, also, and the oldest son Samuel, born 1752, inherited the farm, and his son James, born 1780, evidently inherited with his brother Samuel. About 1810 these two brothers built the large farm house on Mill Street, which recently burned. James had a son, James H., who was the father of James Freeman and grandfather of the last Leland owner of the Old Red House, James Freeman Leland, Jr.

After the brothers, James and Samuel, built the new house, the Old Red House had numerous tenants. Lemuel Leland for one, the shoemaker; and Moses

Burlen, who had been in business in Medway and Boston, married China Ware of Sherborn, and they came back to Sherborn to end their days and be near their daughter Charlotte who married Baruck Leland and lived in the old Baruck Leland place, afterwards Mr. Cabot's. The old tall clock which was given to the library by William H. Burlen belonged originally to Moses Burlen, and ticked away many hours in the Old Red House.

Perhaps it is just as well to note here the traditions as to "China" Ware, wife of Moses Burlen. She was born in Sherborn July 30, 1786, the daughter of Captain Benjamin Ware. About the same time a little girl was born to a family named Stone. This family probably lived on Pleasant Street in West Sherborn. At the same time there dwelt in Sherborn an ancient mariner, a retired seafaring man who begged to be allowed to give names to the two little girls. To the little Ware girl he gave the name "China", and to the little Stone girl he gave the name "Cherry".

What eventually became of Cherry Stone, I cannot say, but China Ware became Mrs. Moses Burlen, and the name China was later given to a Leland girl — of the same branch as Baruck, and, if my memory serves me right, China W. Leland also lived in the Old Red House.

The name "Old Red House" has stuck to this house for well over a century, and it is such an appropriate name, let us hope it may continue to be used.

On the Holliston Road (Washington Street), and at the foot of the hill (Bull's Hill), beyond Grout's and Tucey's, is the old Asa Sanger house, now owned by Mr. Reading, another Salt Box facing south toward the "Judge's Meadow". Morse says Asa Sanger built it in 1775, Bunker Hill Day, and that the men at work on the roof heard the guns of that battle. If so, the wind was northeast. I think the fact that it was singled on that day led Morse and others to say it was being built at that time. George Sanger, who was the great-grandson of Asa, said, "It was shingled on Bunker Hill Day, but, because the first shingles were over 75 years old, it was an old house then." He went on to tell how the handmade shingles riven from cedar logs with a "frow" had been known to last over a hundred years. Asa Sanger owned it, with land inherited from Richard Sanger, 3rd, his father. Who built it? Before Asa owned it, it was a Phipps house, and before Phipps owned it, it was a Bullen house. Deacon Samuel Bullen, incorporator of Dedham, Medfield, and Sherborn, and who was born in England in 1591, had several sons, among whom were Ephraim and Elisha who settled in Sherborn. Ephraim built west of Brush Hill, and Elisha built this old house at the foot of Bull's Hill. This Elisha's first child was named for his father and was born in Sherborn in 1784. This seems to date the house.

It is an interesting house. The brick ovens are at the back of the fireplace, and not at the side, and an earlier type of construction. Morse says Hannah Bullen, daughter of Elisha, married John Phipps, Jr. from Wrentham. His father was nephew of Sir William Phipps, Colonial Governor, and the richest man in the colony (and thereby hangs a tale). Anyway, John and Hannah, were sober, industrious, God-fearing people, and lie buried in the Central Burying Ground. Back of this old house lies the "Goomer", a rough, rocky bit of woodland; and here, according to legend lie buried two saddle bags crammed with pirate gold, etc., buried in 1704 by one William Bull who was mate of Captain Kidd and friend and boon companion of John Phipps, Sr., who sailed with his uncle William, when Sir William discovered the great treasure in the wicked

Spanish galleon. But that's another story, which, perhaps, we'll find time for, after we are through with the old houses.

General Washington made his last visit to New England in 1789. As he turned about to journey back to Virginia he passed through Sherborn and stopped at the old Sanger Farm for rest and refreshment offered by Captain Samuel Sanger, host. This old tavern occupied the site of the present home of Miss Harriet Adams, and was built in 1729. Having been refreshed, the General proceeded on his way following what is now Washington Street; then, a portion of the Hartford Pike.

At the foot of the hill, then known as Bull's Hill, he halted, descended from his horse and advanced to meet Asa Sanger, younger brother of Captain Samuel Sanger and a veteran of the Revoltuion. Asa that morning was mending a wall. For a brief period they conversed, the soldier and the great general; then Asa walked with Washington, saw him safely in the waiting coach and shook his hand. Then the coach proceeded up Bull's Hill to Holliston on its way to Hartford and Virginia.

This meeting was family history in Asa's family, and his great grandson told it to me with evidences of pride.

Of the remaining old houses still standing in the town, let us first consider the Amos Clark house on Maple Street, now owned by Mrs. Phipps, whose husband, Dr. Phipps, was a lineal descendent of the Rev. Amos Clark. This house is a salt box and faces south. In many ways it resembles the old Asa Sanger house or the Bullen-Phipps house on Washington Street. These houses might have been the work of the same builder, but of the two, the Clark house is more recent.

Samuel Clark, born in 1756, and one of seven brothers who fought in the Revolution, purchased this house and farm from Whitney Hill. Here his son Amos, the minister, beloved of all Sherborn people, resided during his lifetime, and here his twelve children were born. Whitney Hill was also a soldier of the Revolution and was a Holliston man. Before 1729 the land upon which this house sets was bought by Hill. He bought just the land. Then he sold in 1729 the land and buildings. This places the house as being erected about 1729.

It seems that about this time and later there was a little settlement of small farms back of the Clark place, to the north and west, embracing part of the "Old Field" and "Old Field Woods". All evidences of this settlement have disappeared. There was at that time a road on the west side of the Clark house and running north.

A tradition, which has always persisted, states that the ell on the Clark place, toward the east, was brought from Medfield and moved across the Charles River on the ice. The tradition further states this building survived the burning of Medfield in 1676.

While in this section of the town, let's continue west on Maple Street to Pleasant Street, to the left after we pass the West Cemetery. The second house on this street is the Fessenden House. By authentic record, this is the oldest house in Sherborn, and was built in 1686. This building, too, is salt box and sets corner to the road, so as to face south. In this part of Sherborn settled

the Babcock, Twitchell and Buckmaster families. The Babcocks and Twitchells were related and originally from Milton.

The Fessenden house was built by a Twitchell. Beyond it the Babcocks built, on what is now the Hildreth farm. This house is gone. Buckmaster built north of the present Sam Carter place, which is a Brick, later Cushing, place and built by Brick directly after the Revolution. Brick was a Revolutionary soldier. The Buckmasters did not remain long in Sherborn.

And now as to this most interesting old Fessenden house. Joseph Twitchell built it, and having married and built his home, he made his will in 1687, leaving to his wife "the house I built last year". This house has been most carefully restored by the late Mr. Fessenden. At one time the farm and house was owned by a Littlefield, and when part of it was re-clapboarded, loopholes were uncovered. This should not seem unusual, for it was in 1676, ten years before the house was built, that the Bullard Fort was besieged by Philip's warriors.

Leaving Pleasant Street and traveling Western Avenue, going toward Washington Street, we come to a very dignified old house on the west side of the road. This is the Morse-Fay-Leland-Hawes house. Captain Joseph Morse married Mehitable Wood in 1671, and built what is known as the Joe Walter Barber house in South Sherborn. Captain Morse drew lands in W. Sherborn, a great tract now embracing three farms. He had twelve children. The fourth was Joseph, born 1679, and died of the "Memorable Mortality" in 1754. He married Prudence Adams, and took up some of the land that his father had drawn in W. Sherborn, and built there. As his first child was born June 1703, this dates the old house as being built before that time. Later this house passed to a Leland, and about 1795 was occupied by Dr. Jonathan Fay from Salem; he was of Scotch descent and married a Mary Holbrook. He evidently shared patients with Doctor Tapley Wyeth, for they practiced at the same time. Wyeth also probably originated in Essex County, as the Tapleys were a well-known family in Danvers.

One of the rooms in this old house has inside shutters with small openings near the top. Again, let us quote tradition! Some curious neighbor, passing one night, stole up to the house, as light was visible through the shutter openings, and peered in to see the old doctor seated before a table counting his "hard money." "It was a great hoard." This is very much in doubt, even if the good doctor was of Scotch ancestry, for he had a rival in Dr. Wyeth, and I'm afraid most of his bills, at that time (about 1800), if paid at all, were paid in wood and farm produce.

There were quite a few early houses in the north part of the town. All have disappeared save the old red house on Brush Hill Road, now owned by Mr. Laverack. As to the origin of this building, there is a difference of opinion. It might have been built by Thomas Sawin who owned the water power and mill nearby. (He furnished the lumber for the first church building in 1680.) He afterwards removed to So. Natick, but continued his trade and ran a water mill lastly owned by the late Preston Morse.

The second clue seems to be that the house was built by Ephriam Bullen, son of Deacon Samuel, and brother of Elisha. At first, Ephriam lived near the center of the town, but afterwards took up land in N. E. Sherborn and bought extensively, leaving a large farm which was divided into several farms at his death and fell to his heirs. It seems assured he owned the land and house under

From Oldest Known Map of Sherborn, Circa 1788

Hunting Lane Farm in 1870. This is the Whitney Paul house built before 1733, and formerly a tavern and store.

Charlescote Farm about 1900. This is a Morse house built in 1783 on the original grants.

Bullard house, built around 1750, (corner Main Street and Railroad Avenue), as it looked after the Civil War.

discussion. Whether he bought of Sawin, if Sawin owned it and built the house, or whether Bullen built the house, has really never been gone into. Suffice it to say if either owned or built it, it was erected a few years after 1700. As it stands, it is a splendid example of 17th century construction.

On April 19, 1729, Samuel Morse, son of Samuel Morse, and grandson of Daniel Morse, the original settler, sold the house on Farm Road, N. E. of Farm Pond, opposite to and owned by Mr. Saltonstall, to Deacon Jonathan Russell. This Samuel Morse was born in 1687, and the place was set off from the original Morse Farm. Morse resided here some years before the sale to Russell, so it looks as if the house might have been built about 1720. Russell's descendants resided here much over 100 years. The last Russell heirs owned and sold to the Sawin Academy the land upon which the Academy now stands. The end of the Russell family of Sherborn was tragic. The family had become reduced to three, two men and a woman living in the old house; they were the great-grandchildren of the old deacon.

Professor Albert Morse of Wellesley College and one of the curators of the Peabody Museum of Salem, of the last generation of Morses born on the Daniel Morse home acres, gave to me the following story of the end of the Russell family. It seems that one of the Russell men was most intelligent, a well-read man and a hard worker, carrying on the farm. Unfortunately, his brother and sister were both mentally deficient, unable to be trusted with any kind of work. So the guardian brother assumed the discouraging task of running the farm and caring for the home and his mentally helpless brother and sister. The strain was overpowering, and driven to desperation, he walked into Farm Pond, bearing in his hands a huge stone, until he walked beyond his depth still clinging to the stone, and so was drowned.

Albert Morse gave to the Historical Society an ancient rapier, which was found in the chimney of the Russell house, securely bricked in. Why was it bricked up? Who did it? No one ever knew.

HOUSES BUILT BETWEEN 1720 AND 1820

There are about sixty houses still standing in Sherborn built in 1830 and before. The dwellings erected before 1720 have already been discussed, so we will now very briefly describe those built between 1720 and 1820.

Therefore, let us begin at the south part of the town and proceed along Main Street, North. The old house at one time known as Riverbank Lodge and standing on the hill by Death's Bridge marks the spot where Thomas Holbrook built his first house. The property descends from his heirs to the Hill and Daniels families and was sold to Henry Death (born 1741), and present house was built 1775-76. Later the Death family in residence changed their name to How (marriage to the How family of Sudbury of Wayside Inn fame). Other members of the Death family went back to the original spelling of the name "Dearth".

The next house is the Daniels house, owned by Mr. Franklin King. This is the original Leland land and came down in the family 'til the time of Colonel Joshua Leland who sold to Joseph Coolidge. Deacon Lowell Coolidge was born here and he said that when the family built the present house (Joseph was his grandfather), the little old Leland house was moved into the dooryard, and in it the family lived during construction. This little house was the second house built by Henry Leland; the first was built in the 1600's. The present house was built about 1780, and later the Coolidges sold to the Daniels family.

Farther north is the little house opposite the end of Woodland Street. Originally, this was a blacksmith shop. It was built by James Holbrook (born 1762) who lived across the road about 1788; then in the 1820's it was converted into a house as at present. The house across Main Street was probably built at about the same time or before 1788, but much changed.

The Sartwell house at the intersection of Goulding Street was originally a Ware house and at one time a Tavern, built probably after the Revolution, but before 1800. It was afterwards bought by the Bullards, and Brayton Bullard lived there.

Across the brook and on the left is the Bickford house. James Bickford was of Wellfleet on the Cape and had been captain of a whaler. He preserved his nautical ways, even, 'tis said, in the matter of driving oxen. for when the usual terms of right and left were "Ge" and "Haw", Bickford trained his yoke to Starboard and Port and "Halt" was Avast! He bought the place of John Ware and it had been built many years before Bickford bought it. It was originally a small, one story and attic salt box, facing south. Bickford built an additional story and a door facing the road, but the old south door still opens into the hall with its staircase built against the chimney. It was probably built between 1760 and 1770. (This has more recently been moved back from the road, restored, and is owned by Mr. William Hall.)

To the right and at the end of a lane - the Robert Buntin house, with an interesting history. Originally, it stood on the land now occupied by St. Theresa's Chapel. The town bought the property for the land and afterwards built the Almshouse. This house was built by Thomas Holbrook (born 1747). He was a gunsmith, and built about 1780. Later the house passed into the hands of Curtis

Coolidge, who lived here many years with his wife Orinda. They were married over sixty years and died so close together that there was a double funeral. The town bought of his heirs and sold the house (to be moved) at auction. The price paid for this building was five dollars, and I remember there was an argument as to whether the Wilder copper pump in the kitchen went with the house. . . it did, and eventually the house went sailing down Joe Goulding's hill to its present location. In this era of housing shortage. . . well, five dollars seems a not too high price. . or does it?

Ezra Holbrook, father of the aforementioned Thomas, built the old house at the foot of the hill, close to the road, and now owned by the Barakat family. He was married in 1738, and his first child born in 1739; this dates the house. Upon Ezra's death the home passed to his son Joshua, a Revolutionary soldier. He left one son, Lewis, who sold to Dalton Goulding. Lewis moved to a farm on Lake Street near Little Pond, lately owned by his grandson Charles Holbrook.

From here, north along Main Street, we have to journey across the railroad tracks before encountering our next house built before 1800. We have now to do with Col. Samuel Bullard, born in the south part of the town, but in 1769 bought land on the Plain from Moses (probably "Shock") Perry. This land with additions started at Zion's Lane and went north to Whitney (Paul's place) and west, covering the east portion of Brush Hill. In one of Col. Samuel's transactions he bought the house now owned by Mr. Wheatly. This identical spot had fallen to Edward West Perry through his uncle Edward West, whose wife was a daughter of Daniel Morse. The question is, who built this house? Mr. James Bullard, born 1813, said it had been built by a Perry and purchased by Col. Bullard, who was great-grandfather of the aforementioned James, about 1769. Be that as it may, James Bullard, son of the Colonel, who was born in 1762, lived there and died in 1828. The place fell to James' son Harry, and there he lived, and after him all their lives, his sons, George and Nason. It is an interesting house. The front hall was stenciled before it ever received wallpaper. I have seen that. Colonel Bullard's oldest child Mary was born in 1755, and she married Eleazer Dowse. The Dowse family lived in Charlestown and were burned out at the time of the Battle of Bunker Hill, and having no other place to go, trudged the road from Charlestown to Sherborn that June day to find haven at Colonel Bullard's.

Later, Eleazer Dowse built the house across from the Bullard place, now owned by Mr. Taylor. Sixty years ago, in front of the Taylor house, stood the most glorious elm tree in Sherborn, and beneath it, so tradition says, was publicly whipped for a minor offense, the father of Daniel Shay of Rebellion fame. Here, too, in 1787, was born Polly, who married Capt. Ebenezer Mann, the builder of 1810. Polly Mann lived to be nearly 100 years old, and took great pride, in her later years, in the fact she had been born in the administration of General Washington. Colonel Bullard's youngest child, Betsey, was born in 1776, and always lived a spinster in the little north ell of the old house. Here, also, lived Polly Bullard of the next generation, and because of her residence in the little ell, it was always known as "Aunt Polly's Part". She and Polly Mann were cousins.

The Paul Place is now owned by the granddaughter of Captain Paul who bought in 1824. Captain Paul was a retired sea-captain, and here established a tavern that became famous, and a store. He also farmed extensively. This old house was a Whitney house, and that family came to Sherborn in 1679 from

Watertown, and built a house. It is evident the present house is not the original house, but it is also evident that the main house was built in the first half of the 18th century. As every succeeding generation of Whitneys took possession, Morse in his history stresses the fact that it was the "ancient homestead" that was inherited, this up to the time of the Hon. Daniel Whitney, who died in 1810. One of his daughters married Deacon William Clark and another John Bullard.

Captain Paul added the south ell to the old house, originally for a store, and later purchased the original school house that set on land on Main Street north of what is now Zion's Lane. This school house had served both the Center and Plain families. It was probably moved about or before 1830, and was added to the west part of the Paul house.

Beyond the Paul house and to the right, opposite Hunting Lane, is the house now occupied by the Richardsons. This is the Tapley Wyeth house. It has been moved back a little from the original site. Dr. Tapley Wyeth graduated from Harvard in 1786. The name Tapley brands him of Essex County origin, for the family of Tapley is as much of Essex County as are Choats and Peabodys. He married Sally Fish (she was a connection of the Sherborn Hills). Their first child, Eliza was born in 1799. It is probable this house was built between 1790 and 1798. They had another daughter, Miss Lucy Wyeth, who resided all her life in this house and lived to be an old lady. She was a dressmaker, known and respected by everyone. Formerly on this site stood the original home of Deacon Benoni Larned. (1679 the same year his neightbor Whitney across the way built.) Many of his daughters married into old Sherborn families.

If Sherborn ever had a manufacturing district it was located on Main Street from the Wyeth house to Dowse's Corner. Squire Butler's shop was on what is now Butler Street, east of the Allison house (built 1818). North of Butler Street the house now owned by the Bartletts was the Amasa Green house, probably built about 1800, or before. Amasa was the town coffin maker, as well as being a carpenter. There were no undertakers in the early days, so when death visited a family, Amasa Green was notified. He arrived with his tools, horses and lumber, and proceeded to build the last house for the person who had passed on. Our ancestors accepted death as ultimate and were resigned. Back to the Greens; I do not know where they lived before coming to Sherborn, but I do remember as a boy, seeing a most beautiful set of very old chairs in this house when William Green lived there in 1881. These chairs had belonged originally to Gov. Bellingham who was an ancestor of the Green family, so Mrs. Martha Clark said.

The Tyson house was originally a Partridge house and built about 1800. The Partridge family was originally from Medfield and came to Sherborn in 1739. They married into the Perry and Babcock families. It was this family that built the "stone house" and here made pitchforks. Their forks were said to outlast any others, and I have seen old Partridge forks, 25 to 50 years old, bring more at auctions than forks almost new.

Below the stone house, Malachi Babcock made edged tools, knives, axes, etc. These tools bore the same good reputation as enjoyed by those made by Partridge.

Still farther north and near the brook was Lemuel Leland's gun shop.

The fame of Lemuel's firearms extended as far as West Virginia and Kentucky. He made both "fowling pieces", also called, locally, "pigeon guns" because they were made for shooting wild pigeons, and remarkably straight shooting rifles. These all were mostly flint locks. In later life Lemuel retired to live with his son, William ("Bill Gun"), on what is now the Hildreth place in West Sherborn.

Next is the house now occupied by Mr. Tougas. I acknowledge I know very little of this house, except the main house is old. The late Charles Dowse, Arthur's father, who was remarkably well-versed in town history, told me on two occasions that he had reason to suppose this was one of the oldest houses on Main Street. This house was once occupied by the Fisk family and also Chamberlains. Both families were engaged in tanning. Fisk later built the house opposite, now owned by Mrs. Crowley.

The Dr. Travis place was built, I think, by Benjamin Dowse, perhaps early in the 1800's. In the next place Deacon Lowell Coolidge made shoes. The Burroughs house was built by Andrew Jackson Church. He invented a very successful carriage wheel jack. His wife was the daughter of Lewis Breck, and her mother was Asa Sanger's daughter. Lewis Breck built the old house on the Bliss place on the road to Millis. Joseph Dowse, Jr., for many years Town Clerk, built the Drew place.

Emelyn Sparhawk, I think, built the house where his granddaughter Miss Sara lives today. He was a mild, kindly gentlemen, and his family carriage was a very old carryall, one of four all alike and owned by Jesse Ellis, Jed Mann, and Oliver Nelson Barber, Elijah's father. I remember the Mann vehicle came to a dramatic end. Mr. Mann had bought a new cow and she was hitched behind the carryall. As he turned into the home lane the cow decided to stop and hold back; the horse went on; the carryall left the ground and turned upside down. That was the end of a "hansome kerrege".

Where the roads fork at Dowse's corner was standing another large shoe shop. This was carried on for many years by Nathaniel Dowse. Mr. Dowse was a tall, thin, austere gentleman, and he and John Goulding were the last in town to wear tall beaver hats. I've heard them tell that as John Goulding rode through town in a high-backed sleigh, about six inches of his tall hat appeared above the back of the sleigh, — a dare to every small boy when the snow made good snowballs!

The house now owned by Edmund Dowse was built by the father of Joseph Dowse, Jr. and Mrs. Rebecca Dowse Maynard, whose memory is cherished by her former pupils. The house was built in the early years of the 19th century.

Considering that four of the nearby houses were built and occupied by Dowses, it is only appropriate that this fork in the roads should be designated as Dowse's Corner, a name that has stuck for over a century.

The only old house below Dowse's Corner is on Everett Street, long known as the Woodcock house, but built long before that family's tenure. This is a small "bank" house, built into the south face of the little hill. As it is now almost a ruin and its long years of usefulness gone, I simply mention it and come back to Coolidge Street on the road to Framingham.

On the right, now owned by Mrs. Holbrook, stands the Fernald house, at one time a girls' school and built in the first years of the 19th century. Gray's house was a Hill place and before then belonged to the Coolidge family; that, as well as the West house, opposite, were of the period just before 1800.

Sunshine Dairy farmhouse, a substantial dwelling of good architectural lines, and built about 1830, probably by Jonathan, was the Daniel Leland place. He was the grandfather of the late Daniel Whitney.

We retrace our steps to Prospect Street, but before crossing the tracks let me mention that the old Stratton place (near Sakas') was for many years the home of the Stratton family. I remember the original little old house beneath a huge elm, that has the distinction, although never moved, of being first on the north side of the old road to Framingham and later on the south side of the road. In this little house in 1816 lived the Stratton who generously came to the rescue of the farmers of Sherborn, with the only seed corn available in town, in the spring of 1817. 1816, if you remember, was the year without a summer, there being a killing frost in every month. This was "Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death", as the year was known. Somehow, Stratton managed to raise a fair crop of corn, the only farmer in the town thus fortunate. There was much conjecture as to what Stratton would charge for seed. This was settled when it was announced, at Town Meeting, 1817, that Mr. Stratton's seed corn would be distributed fairly to Sherborn farmers at no cost.

On Prospect Street, first left, the old George Davis place, now Grenier's, was built in the late 1700's by a Perry. Next, is the Ware's place. This stood originally on the north side of the street and was built by William Tucker who came to Sherborn from Milton in the early 1780's, at which time he built the house. He served the town as Town Clerk and Selectman, and kept a Tavern. Mr. John Merriam of Framingham, bought the place and moved the house to its present commanding site.

The Brooks house on Western Avenue was always a Twitchell house. The present building dates back to 1800. Here lived Mr. Timothy Twitchell, the last man in Sherborn to own and use an old-fashioned "one horse shay". He rode it down to the 1870's.

"Oldfields" was a Morse place. This Morse was the descendent of Captain Morse. The present house goes back to before 1800.

Next, the Wilson place, originally a Goulding house, was built by Captain Mann in the 1820's. This house was the scene of a tragedy. Ezra Hutchens lost his life by being smothered in a folding bed. Evidently the early folding beds were tricky.

One of the most picturesque houses still left in Sherborn is the place formerly owned by Mr. Bennett. It is a very old house, and one of the few old houses in town with a gambrel roof. It was probably built by one of the heirs of Ephraim Bullen, who owned a farm of large acreage, that was divided at his death. It must have been built about 1750. About or before 1800, Galim Bullard bought it and his children were born here. He was born in 1769 and died in 1853. The man Galim Bullard will always be associated with the W. stone, because he set it up in May 1822, and if tradition can be believed, of all Sherborn celebrations, this was THE one, when the W. stone was set in place. Why is the stone

called the W. stone? One story was that the roads near formed a W, but probably the authentic reason was it marked a boundary of the Waite grant. This grant took in the old Pratt-Hunt farm and went north into Framingham to the Sudbury River. The name is preserved in Mount Waite which was an outdoor meeting place and was a favored location for conventions of the Anti-Slavery movement when feelings ran high. It was at Mount Waite that Wendell Philips, a famous orator and a great abolitionist, tore the United States Constitution into shreds on the platform and stamped on the fragments to signify how worthless was this scrap of paper in the cause of real freedom. Anyone who has ever seen Wendell Philips, a great, towering man, fearless and majestic, would realize how capable he was of performing such an act – of fearlessly destroying the Constitution.

So much for Mount Waite and now a word about Galim Bullard and the setting up of his W. stone. The W. stone probably marks the boundary of the Waite Grant, also the 1700 dividing line between Sherborn and Framingham. The stone, bearing Bullard's name, was erected in May 1822. Perhaps Galim planned differently; if so the celebration got out of hand. Tradition says the celebration set up a hogshead of New England rum and many barrels of hard cider. In that day good rum cost twenty-five cents a gallon. Briefly, the festivities became Bacchanalian. The women and children took to the woods, sundry citizens were ducked in the horse trough on the Pratt-Hunt place, and merriment (if it can be called such) lasted all day or until the hogsheads were empty. These actions strengthened the temperance movement just then at its beginning in town, and added members.

From the Bennett-Bullard house (which by the way was restored most artistically by Mr. and Mrs. Tuckerman, parents of Mrs. James Leland), we short-cut on Curve Street and cross the R. R. bridge on Whitney Street and here find another picturesque little house. This is known today as the Red Inn, and was built into the south side of the hill. Original part is probably that nearest the road. It was probably built for a joint shop-and-home and must at least go back into the Revolutionary period.

We go back to Western Avenue and turn down Maple Street. Dr. Romano's farmhouse was a Whitney house about 1800. Sam Carter's was built by Brick on his return from the War of 1776, and for many years was the Cushing homestead. The George Carter place was the Eleazer Leland place and probably built by his father. On this farm to the north of the house are great ledges spoken of in old deeds as Rattlesnake Castle.

Back to the Avenue. The Brown house is probably 18th century. The house beyond, recently occupied by Mr. Walter Wood, was a Leland place (Micah) and was one of the houses built by Captain Mann in the 1820's. The Poole house on the west corner of the Avenue, and on Washington Street, is of about the same era.

Crossing Washington Street on the right, still on Western Avenue, the first house on the right, the Jones Leland, now Thornton, was built about or before 1800. On the old road to Holliston, near the end of Western Avenue, is the old Gardner place, now the home of Mr. Ward Parks. This house was built by the first Gardner, Addington by name, a family of distinction and, as the house shows, a family of means. It was built in the early 1730's as he came to Sherborn in 1730 and his first child was born in 1741 in Boston. Notwithstanding this,

the house was probably built, as previously stated, in the 1730's. Captain Aaron inherited the homestead. His son Horatio, who married Patty Ware, lived here, and also later, his son Horatio, whom many remember.

Let's tell a little story here. The Gardners were very proud of their ancestry. So, too, were the Sherborn Adamses. Once, so it is related, Captain Bowen Adams, who built and lived in what is now the Driscoll house, met Horatio Gardner in the center store. Captain Adams never failed to laud his ancestors and bragged that the first Adams was the husband of Eve and said, "How about that, Gardner?" Horatio replied, "Don't doubt it; you see that Adam was also the first Gardner!"

In writing of the old houses still standing, most of the ground has been covered, but there remain a few that should be mentioned.

First, is what the present generation knows as the Ted Bothfeld house and farm. This place was a part of the Leland holdings, the middle section, and fell to Hopestill, whose son Daniel, born 1704, inherited it. Daniel married Martha Death. He had eight children; the seventh and eighth were twins, Moses and Aaron, born 1751. The farm, at their father's death was divided between them. Aaron took the west half and Moses the east, which is the Bothfeld place. Aaron built where a cellar hole now is somewhat northwest. This house was burned in the 19th century. It is probable Moses also built, and this is the house still standing. His first child, Eli, was born in 1775, which I feel places the date of this house as about or before that date. Moses' son Daniel, inherited it and it passed down to his son Frederick, thence it was bought by Augustus Dearth. It is of interest to note that both Frederick and his brother Augustus were both decidedly musical and each had a grandson who became well-known organists. Frederick's grandson was Whiting, a renowned Boston organist and teacher, while Augustus' grandson was Major Will Taber, who was organist in many well-known churches both in this country and in the Sandwich Islands and Manila.

On Nason Hill Road, setting well back from the highway is what we know as the Ira Ward place, now Strange. This was originally a part of the Hill holdings, and the road is named for James Nason Hill, born 1812, son of James born 1768, who bought this place of Jonas Fisk. But Jonas Fisk had it of his wife, who was Mary Hill. Jonas' brother John settled here. He married Sarah Hill and his oldest child Abigail was born in 1766. Another daughter, Sarah, married Dr. Wyeth. We can safely set down the fact this old house is pre-revolutionary and probably dates to 1765.

Another pre-revolutionary house, facing south on what is now known as Farm Road (originally — Road to the Farm and then Trinity Street), is the Peckham place. This was originally part of the Morse holdings and may have been built by one of them.

It was previously stated that the second church edifice was sawed in two, the west half moved forward and a new piece (about 20 feet) set in to join the original parts. This work was done by Joseph Bacon whose home, at that time, was the Peckham house, and his first child was Charlotte, born 1769. (Her little pewter porringer, marked C. B., still is preserved in town.) The house may be older than this, and if Morse built it, it was, but Bacon was a builder.

Later the place passed to Ezra or Joseph Holbrook, and then to the late Captain Jacob Pratt. Much could be said of him, for he was a natural landscape architect. Before leaving this interesting place, let us put in here that a few rods beyond Peckham's to the east, a bar way leads into what was one of the first roads in town, the way from the Woods-Ware-Goulding farm to the meeting house. It starts at Peckham's where it meets the "Road to the Farm" and wanders southeast and comes out at the corner near Forest and Goulding Streets.

On Maple Street, Edward Newman's house is old. It was the ell on the old Porter-Locke house that stood on the site of the present Babson place. Mr. Locke evidently built it to accommodate some of his students at his classical school. When Colonel Galvin Sanger built the present house in 1819, he probably considered the ell as too good to raze; also, his large family found living quarters here during the new construction. So, it was attached to and became part of the new house. When the place passed out of the hands of the Sanger family and was purchased by Mr. Abijah Leland, he found the house altogether too large for his needs, so he moved both the south and north ells, taking away some ten or twelve rooms. The south ell was moved to its present site, and purchased by Maurice Slattery, while the north ell which had been a part of the service wing (laundry, etc.) was moved to Zion's Lane to land belonging to the Sanger farm. This is now Miss Farrar's home.

As Mr. Locke came back to Sherborn from Harvard College about 1773 and founded his school, it is probable this ell was built shortly after. His widow died in 1788, so the house must have been built before that date. Mrs. Galvin Sanger used it for her home during widowhood and it became what in some New England communities was called the "dowager's ell". Mrs. Sanger, or as she desired to be known, "Mrs. Colonel", was a Phipps and aunt of Mrs. Joseph Sanger. Joseph Sanger was the Colonel's brother.

Of "Mrs. Colonel" it may be said, she was one of the most independent ladies who ever lived in town; the second such was Mrs. Major Goulding who was Betsy Bigelow, one of the "black" Bigelows, as some of her descendants have called her. She was the oldest sister of the late Amos Bigelow, who lived to be almost one hundred years old. I consider he was the best representative of a Puritan I can remember.

These little episodes of "Mrs. Colonel" are characteristic. When she moved out of the house into the ell, the tall hall clock was too high for the low ceilings in the ell. She moved the clock and set it up, but had a carpenter saw off enough of the base so the clock would fit the low ceiling. When the house was being built in 1819, Captain Mann, the builder, explained to her that there was no way to get from the front to the back of the house upstairs. She tersely told him, "I'll have a way tomorrow morning." She did. So came into existence the sliding, many panelled door, half way up the stairs. This door was a beautiful piece of work, showing the workmanship of Captain Mann, and is certainly a pleasant architectural feature. It was also Capt. Mann's boast that "You can fill the wainscoted southeast room on the ground floor with water up to the window sash and I'll guarantee it won't leak a drop." And I think he was right. This room was the old "Picture Parlor". Colonel Sanger imported the Dufour wallpaper from Paris. It was a sepia scenic paper of the Bay of Naples, and in my time carefully preserved and perfect.

It may be of interest here to mention the houses built by Captain Ebenezer

Mann: In 1819, the Col. Sanger house. The Joseph Sanger house (site of the library), in 1820. (The first Post Office was kept in this house by Miss Maria Sanger, later Mrs. Oliver Everett.) The Jonas Greenwood house (now Lyman's), 1821-2. It is said the finest woodwork of Captain Mann went into this house; that two of the mantlepieces took two men two weeks to build. The house on Western Avenue, lately owned and occupied by Mr. Walter Wood and built for Micah Leland by Captain Mann about 1824. It was a hipped-roof house originally. About 1825, the Eleazer Goulding house, also on Western Avenue; afterwards, the French house.

Certainly these houses are a monument to Captain Mann's ability as a builder. Following Capt. Mann as a builder was Captain Bowen Adams, who built for himself, about 1815, the present Driscoll house, next to the Pilgrim Church. Captain Adams also built Unity Hall for a straw shop for Mr. Bickford. Also, in 1833, he built the house, now the Homer house, for Dr. Oliver Everett.

The Stockton house, at the top of the hill on Washington Street was probably built by Jonas Greenwood, father of Jonas, who built the Lyman house. This Jonas was born in 1727. The Greenwood family owned most of the land from the present Flagg place to and beyond the Lyman place — save the two Sanger houses between. The Grout place was originally Greenwood. Jonas' (Sr.) first child was born in 1755. It is a safe bet that the Stockton house was built prior to the Revolution, because the original Greenwood place was sold to the Grouts about 1760-65, and the Greenwoods moved to the top of the hill on their own land.

CEMETERIES

As to the old Cemetery, the present site of the Soldier's Monument, in, and still on, Sanger land; originally the Parish Common went down and included this burying ground in reality the churchyard. It is the second oldest burial place in Sherborn. The first stands on the west bank of the Charles River, not far from Death's Bridge, and here are buried the first settlers, the oldest of whom was Hopestill Leland, born in the reign of Queen Elizabeth in 1580. Here, also, lie those who died in the epidemic known as the "Memorable Mortality" in Sherborn, the "Great Sickness" in Holliston, and later spoken of as the "Holliston Plague" — for Holliston lost one eighth of her population by this sickness. This was in the 1750's.

The first person buried in the Central ground was interred in 1686, which places the date of origin, because it says on the stone, "The first grain sown in this granary". Originally, the ground was much larger stretching southward. As it was surrounded on three sides by Sanger land, Capt. Samuel asked the town to assume care of the land. This the town refused to do, so eventually Capt. Sanger laid the wall around the present bounds and took it for a family cemetery. Later, when Mr. Salisbury built his cider mill to the north, excavation for the cellar brought bones to light, that showed the burying ground was more than twice its present size. It is well to remember that one of the Salisbury Mill buildings was originally built as a schoolhouse — a small, one story, hip-roofed building, perhaps thirty feet square. It was the Sherborn Academy, a private school owned by a group of citizens to provide a higher education. Also, in front of the mill was a small blacksmith shop owned by Elbridge Bickford.

The third old cemetery was the one at the Farm, practically a Morse family burial ground, and the first burial was about 1688.

The small monument on the north side of the Common was erected by the Leland Association in 1847, in memory of Sherborn's first settler, Henry Leland. The head of the Association was a well-known Boston lawyer, Sherman Leland. The time was certainly right for the erection of such a tribute, for at least half the population of Sherborn and Holliston were directly descended from Henry Leland. This monument was unveiled in August, 1847.

The Association purchased of the Parish the spot of the ground upon which the monument rests. Since that time, many have felt the monument should have been dedicated to Hopestill Leland, Henry's father, who was really the first "Layland" to come to America. He was born in Yorkshire in 1580 — came to Weymouth, Mass., in 1624. Henry was his youngest child. One of his daughters was the wife of Thomas Holbrook, who, with Henry Leland and Nicholas Wood, made the triumvirate who settled Bogistow. Hopestill came to live with Henry and died here, and was buried in the old South Cemetery in 1665, aged 75. An interesting note about the name "Hopestill" — in colonial times, like the name "Waitstill", it was given to both boys and girls.

A LITTLE ABOUT SOME OF OUR STREETS

What is the oldest street or road in Sherborn? It was the communicating way from the home of Nicholas Wood to the home of Thomas Holbrook, thence down Death's Hill to the river crossing.

It began at Sewell's Brook, near which Wood built his house, went west through Snow Street, turned south at Main, and followed on to the river.

Probably before any other roads existed, this first way extended east to the Morse place (now Saltonstall) — this was a Garrison House. A few years later, with the second influx of settlers who took up land on what is now Bullard Street, this original way was extended westward to and beyond the Medway line on Bogistow Brook.

So our original road before 1660 extended from Garrison House to Bullard's Fort, embracing parts of Lake Street, Forest Street, Snow Street, and Main Street to Death's Bridge and the whole of Bullard Street. In 1665, a way was cut to the old South Burial Ground where Hopestill Leland (born 1580 - died 1655) was the first person buried.

The first religious services in Sherborn were held in Captain Joseph Morse's house (now Johnson) who married Mehitable Wood, daughter of Nicholas, the first white child born in Sherborn. To this house from 1673 until after the first meeting house was built in 1680, came the Reverend John Eliot and others, among whom was Gookin, the first minister. At that time Natick was the present South Natick, and these ministers probably walked to the Morse house along the river and what is now Clark Road to Lake, either skirting the pond by a path to what is now Forest Street or from Lake to Forest. Clark Road must be put down as possible second way in Sherborn.

Sometime (date unknown) between 1652 and 1676, Death's Bridge was built, probably by the Sherborn settlers and their relatives and friends in Medfield.

These early roads must have been simply passable ways, and it is very doubtful if any wheeled vehicle was owned by any of the settlers until quite a while after their advent in Sherborn, for Nicholas Wood's most elaborate will of 1669, makes no mention of any wheeled conveyance or even of a sledge or sleigh, unless the word "tackling" can be construed to include them. For his time, Wood was a wealthy man.

The third influx of settlers brought in families who settled elsewhere than South Sherborn. These people came from Watertown — Coolidges, Sangers, Whitneys, Kendalls, and others.

Eames was of this group, and settled in what is now South Framingham, but until 1701 was Sherborn. All these new people had to have ways to their houses, and so roads grew. After the church was built, there had to be a way to the Meeting House.

The Coolidges settled on the road to Eames, as did the Kendalls, the Sangers in the Center, the Whitneys on the Plain (now Paul property), the Perrys on what is now Prospect Street and atop of Brush Hill, Twitchells on Pleasant

Street (1686), and Babcocks next door to them. South Maple Street came, and Western Avenue, "the way to the Sudbury River", and later, about 1822-5, "The Road to the West".

What is now Washington Street did not proceed to Holliston; our ancestors shunned swamp and bog land in their road building, so the old original Holliston Road, now Greenwood, Ash and Hollis Streets, was the Holliston Road. The present road through the swamp to Natick was not built until the 1850's, and Mr. George Hooker of Sherborn lost heavily when the swamp section of that road sank a few days before it was to have been accepted. The old road to Natick was Everett Street, for it had been the so-called Natick Road originally. (Eliot Street was built much later.)

Parts of our Main and Washington Streets were a portion of the old Hartford Pike that goes on through Milford, Uxbridge, Oxford, and on into Connecticut. They said the coach from Boston to Hartford went through town, but it is probable the route followed from South Natick was Clark Road, then Farm Road to Lake through what is now a wood road, and came out in what we call Lovers Lane by the Playground. Until quite recently the signboard at the parting of Main and Washington Streets gave the distance to Providence via Main and to Hartford via Washington Street. Green Lane and Brush Hill Road was once the direct route from Sherborn Center to Framingham — discontinued because of a "snowstorm lawsuit" by the Perrys against the town. Perry won.

When Lake Street was built it was known as the "New Road to Medfield". The oldest street retaining its original name is the "Road to the Farm", Farm Road. At one time, and for several years, it was known as Trinity Street, not an official title, but so known.

Dowse's Corner has been Dowse's Corner for over a century. The first Morse gave the name of the Farm to his holdings, and as this included most of the shore of the pond, it was known as Farm Pond.

THE POUND

The late J. Francis Allison prepared and read before the Historical Society a most interesting and instructive paper on the town Pound. Mr. Allison went carefully over the town records from the earliest time and found fourteen separate references to "The Pound", the earliest being in 1694, just twenty years after the town's incorporation.

The establishment of a pound, as part of early government in the Colony, was inherited from the mother country, when the beginning of the custom of building of a pound is lost in the time before recorded history. It probably started when the population ceased roving and set up hamlets, camps, and villages, and all these with the advent of the church became parishes.

It is evident that in 1694 the settlement was confronted with the fact that cattle, sheep, and hogs were running at large and crops suffered. Not only the animals of Sherborn settlers needed restraint, but people from other towns had evidently turned their stock loose to feed on the good pasturage found in Sherborn.

So, the town voted to erect a pound in 1694, and they built it on the Plain near the present entrance to Pine Hill Cemetery. This was a wooden structure, probably of logs. A Pound Keeper was elected in 1703; also, Field Drivers and a Hog Reeve, and prices set to be charged to owners of animals impounded before the animals could be freed. They didn't seem to mind that hogs ran at large, provided they wore a yoke and ring. In parts of the South today, hogs are still allowed to run at large.

Several years later, a new pound, also of wood, was built on the same location, and evidently served its purpose well until 1750, when a vote was taken to build a new pound of stone on the Church Common. It was to be two rods wide (probably square), and the Great White Oak as its west corner. It seems to have always been the custom to build a pound so that the shade and shelters of some great tree offered reasonable protection to the impounded animals. One wonders what eventually became of the Great White Oak Tree on the Common. I have heard it said this tree was near the southwest corner, a reasonable distance from the Meeting House. This was the second church edifice and stood west of the first church and the present, or third church.

Let us consider the Common as it was in 1770. There is a little doubt but what it was at that time a pretty rough pasture spot. The underlying edge came above the ground here and there. Some large trees still stood, like the Great White Oak. Of course, the church was on the highest point, the commanding location. There was some sort of a cellar under the church because here for years the town's stock of gun powder was stored until the "Powder House" in the Bullard Pasture was erected.

Beside the west door of the church, and in full sight so that all might behold and profit by sight, were the town stocks. Evidently the stocks were sufficient, as no mention of a pillory is found in the town records.

The pound near the big tree was in the southwest corner. The schoolhouse was in the southeast corner where Town Hall now stands. There were

probably some horse sheds back of the church, and between the school and pound, but nearer the church, at least one and possibly two, "Noon Houses".

The pound was built about 1770 on the present site on Main Street. It was stone to six feet high.

The pound must have been still standing on the Common in 1830 because when the Church was divided, at that time, one-half of the pound on the Common was given to each parish.

In 1830 when the two Churches were built there must have been a thorough cleaning up of the Common, for the church records speak of many bills for labor and powder for blasting. At that date a man and yoke of cattle got $1.60 for ten hours' work. It is probable that the most of the stone blasted out was used to construct the retaining wall on Main Street. At this same time, certain young men of the parish set out elm and ash trees — some of which, despite the lack of soil, still survive. I know the late Barak Leland pointed out to me one or two such trees, and the names of the planters.

Before closing, let me state that it was the ancient custom at March Meeting to elect as Hog Reeve a young man married within the year.

Also, as far as I can remember, the last animal impounded in Sherborn was Amos Bigelow's horse. This was a joke, but Amos waxed wroth in spite of his ninety odd years.

Gradually, individuals built sheds for their horses at the rear of the church so that within my remembrance there was a row of sheds from the stone steps that go down to Main Street on the north to the present location of the path, but now steps, to Unity Hall. One of these sheds became Town property and housed the hearse owned by the Town. A like group of sheds stood at the back and sides of Pilgrim Church.

It doesn't seem very long ago when the Pound Keeper and the Field Drivers were appointed by the Selectmen, even if the officers were unnecessary. Customs die hard in New England.

FUNERAL CUSTOMS

If you should follow the Depot Road to its end, then turn right beside the tracks for a short way, and if you look carefully, you would see a narrow lane between stone walls. This is the old Bullard Lane and goes on uphill westward toward Brush Hill. If you went up this lane to the pastures, and if you turned south and kept on, you would reach the site of the Town's old Powder House.

But, before you leave the lane, you would see near the south wall a slate headstone. On it you would read the name of James Bullard and the date of his death, June 30, 1828, at which time he was 66 years old. At or near the spot James Bullard had died of a stroke of apoplexy, and his family later had erected this stone to mark the spot. In thus setting up the stone, an old New England custom was followed.

James Bullard was the son of one of Sherborn's best known citizens, Colonel Samuel Bullard, and was one of a family of eleven children. Colonel Bullard was a Revolutionary soldier, and served with honor and distinction. He was born on the original Bullard farm in South Sherborn in 1729. In 1763, he bought land moved to the center of Sherborn then living in a house near the site of the Douglas house at the corner of Depot Road and Main Street. Over opposite his home he built a malt house and did a successful business. You must remember, our ancestors looked upon water as a drink for animals and to be used for washing purposes — not as a human beverage.

Later, the Colonel bought more land, and eventually had large holdings. Part of this purchase was Perry land and included the present Wheatley place. Here, he and his son James probably lived at the time of his death.

James Bullard was a large man, as his grandson James, born 1813, told me he was over six feet tall and weighed over 200 pounds. The morning of June 30, 1828, was hot, and James, with a hired man went up the lane to lay up a stone wall as the cattle were in pasture. He dropped dead, and the frightened hired man rushed back to the house to convey the bad news to the peaceful family. Neighbors — Capt. Paul, some of the Dowses, and others — were summoned and carried the body to the house on a door as a litter.

Young Jimmy Bullard, a grandson of 15, was sent to get young Dr. Oliver Everett, who came, surveyed the remains, and pronounced James Bullard dead. Amasa Green, who lived where the Bartletts now reside, was the town coffin-maker. It was before undertakers were known, and always, unless in very cold weather, the funeral was on the following day. Amasa went about his profession in a methodical way, so they told me. He drove his horse and wagon into the yard, placed his wooden horses, or trestles, under the trees, and with his measuring stick measured the man for whom Amasa was to make his last habitation. Green, so it was said, always made a coffin that had six sides, not four.

Meanwhile, the womenfolk, James' sister Betsy and his daughter Mary (Polly), and other women of the household, prepared the house for the funeral next day, saw to it that the brick oven was heated and elaborate preparations made for the funeral dinner for relatives and old friends.

In 1828, the funeral of a well-known man and a respected citizen was a

most solemn affair. James Bullard had filled with distinction and integrity many town offices. One was the custodian of the town's supply of powder, bullets and flint, stored in the Powder House on the Bullard farm.

It would seem that there was a certain procedure followed at funerals of that period. In the forenoon, relatives and old friends assembled to eulogize the departed, and wait for the "funeral baked meats" to be served and also to register their guesses as to the contents of the will of the deceased. The will of Col. Samuel Bullard, James' father, had been a wonderful and lengthy document, and disposed minutely of everything owned by the maker. Col. Bullard had made every provision for his widow, where she was to live, how much was to be provided for her support, how much wood she was to burn, and how often she was to have the horse and carriage placed at her disposal. So, also, did he provide for his daughter Betsy (Aunt Betsy), who ended her days in the little north ell — later known as "Aunt Polly's Part".

The funeral dinner was served in the long south parlor, and trestle tables had been set up. It was a solemn meal, and after it was over and the tables removed, the mourners and the neighborhood people began to arrive. The coffin was placed before the fireplace in the north parlor. It was June, and flowers were in profusion. At the head was placed the Samuel Locke light stand, and upon it a small roughly decorated bowl filled with the choicer blooms. This was known as the Bullard bowl and dated back to Colonel Samuel's time. In this room sat the family, and they more than filled the room — Bullards, Barbers, Dowses, Coolidges, Morses, in fact, all of Sherborn's oldest families. Friends and neighbors occupied the long south room, the front hall, and overflowed to chairs beneath the trees.

There was one church at that time, and the minister was Sherjashub Bourne Townsend, and he officiated. It is said that when Rev. Townsend prayed, it was a vivid and minute instruction to the Almighty to matters as Rev. Townsend saw them, and to take the hint as to future procedure. The services finally over, the coffin was borne out by the bearers and placed in a wagon, the bearers on either side. Then, the procession to the cemetery (I think the Plain); first relatives in chaises, and a few of the, then, new-fangled family carryalls, and finally those who walked along the dusty road.

The last rites having been performed, everybody returned to the house, curious to hear the reading of the will. There were three children — Andrew, a cabinet-maker who lived in the house south from James' house; Harry, who inherited the Malt house and home; and Mary (Aunt Polly), who was provided for in the will.

After the reading of the will, the relatives and friends lingered, and finally came into the house and were divided into two groups. One group went to the north parlor, the other to the south parlor. To those in the north parlor, cakes and pitchers of water were served. In the south room, cakes were also served, but instead of water, two ancient decanters, evidently Amelung manufacture, were filled and refilled with rum in one and brandy in the other. The group that emptied the decanters were there to follow the aged custom of drinking in the memory of the departed and extolling his many virtues, while floating in to them from the north parlor came the chants of songs, praising water as Adam's ale and God's beverage. It was late afternoon when all had departed and left the two women of the household to put the home in order.

I have dwelt upon this phase of the obsequies for James Bullard because it was the last funeral in Sherborn among the old families when liquor was served. It marked the beginning of a new era — the temperance movement.

In Sherborn, since the setting up of the W stone by Galim Bullard and its attendant exercises in May 1822, there came to life a determined effort on the part of the town's best residents to get back to more normal living. Up to this time, the serving of spirits, especially rum, on all occasions was a custom the settlers brought from England, and it died hard. No minister was installed or ordained without a large bill for hard liquor. No building, not even a church, was raised without liquor. Rum was cheap in 1830-1840. It was eight cents a quart and cheaper by the gallon and barrel.

So much for one cause for contention during this era which was to usher in a decided change affecting the social life of the town. The other diversity of opinion dealt with the religious side. This had been gathering momentum since the pastorate of the Rev. Elijah Brown, the minister during the trying times of the Revolution.

Rev. Brown was a good man, a staunch patriot, and respected and beloved by the townspeople. Before his time, the custom had been for the minister to preach a sermon lasting from two to three hours. You could not escape from it, for if you didn't come to meeting you were fined, and if you didn't pay — the town stocks were beside the church door. These Colonial "divines" loved to hear themselves talk, and loved to expound their own ideas as to the meaning of Holy Writ. Also, remember the church was unheated, and it is a wonder some didn't freeze to death. Also, the tithing man and his wand saw to it that you didn't sleep. So, when Elijah Brown started his custom of preaching a sermon that lasted usually for twenty minutes, (never, so it is said, over thirty), the congregation had reason to respect its minister. Also, Rev. Brown stood for individual thought and freedom of conscience. This issue also had the effect of widening the break in public thought. The late George Bullard, a grandson of James Bullard, for many years Post Master and active and much respected member of the Pilgrim Church, from whom I heard this story I have written, felt that his grandfather's death marked the close of an era in the social history of the town, and I certainly agree.

So, I say, the headstone on the hillside not only marks the spot where James Bullard expired, but also the passing of an era.

PASSENGER PIGEONS AND FIREARMS

The three most prominent early gunsmiths of Sherborn were Thomas Holbrook, who was born in 1747-8 and married Sally Dana in 1781; Lemuel Leland, really a famous gunmaker, who was born in 1786 and married Polly Clark; and later his son William (known as "Bill Gun") took up his father's trade.

Thomas Holbrook lived where St. Theresa's Church now stands, and probably built the house later moved to its present site by Mr. McCarthy. He was a good gunsmith, and later moved to South Natick. About this same time, one of the Sparhawk family lived on Farm Road near the corner of Main Street and made guns, later having a shop on Washington Street directly opposite the First Parish Church.

Then came Lemuel Leland whose firearms became well-known and much sought as far west as Kentucky. He was the son of Moses. He set up his shop, probably on what was Clark land near the brook on the Plain near where Mr. Henderson now resides. His sister Nancy married Alpheus Clark. Lemuel Leland must have produced many guns, both smooth bore and rifles. These shooting irons were known for their accuracy, even in long distance shooting, and for the workmanlike manner in which they were made. Many of his shotguns had exceedingly long barrels — stock and barrel often measuring nearly six feet overall. All his early work, and in fact, most all his products were flint locks. Later, his son William, who took up his father's trade on what is now the Hildreth place (he was Mrs. Mercie Hildreth's grandfather), eventually devoted much of his time to "changing over" flint locks to percussion.

In the old days, or shall we say a century ago, every farmhouse had its gun or guns. Wild game, partridges, quail, rabbits, and now and then a deer, abounded. There were also 'coons, the last two being shot by Andrew Fleming in the Goomer some fifty years ago. Men and boys prided themselves on their marksmanship. There were "Turkey Shoots" on Thanksgiving Day, and keen competition, but the owner of a Lemuel Leland gun usually took home the gobbler. Lemuel Leland's smooth bores were always called fowling pieces by their owners — never "shotguns". One such that I remember was the fowling piece made by Lemuel for Jonas Greenwood, who built and resided in the house now owned by Mr. Lyman on Washington Street. Its final owner was George Sanger, who had been brought up by Mr. Greenwood. It was nearly six feet overall and had a curly maple stock. It was beautifully made, and, as I remember, was "changed over" by Bill Gun. Its accuracy was a tradition, and George Sanger said it was a "pigeon gun". Unfortunately, it was destroyed in a house fire - leaving the only Lemuel Leland gun now in Sherborn, in the old home of Squire Butler, now owned by his granddaughter, Mrs. Allison. I might correct this by saying the Hildreths have some firearms probably made by William Leland — yet may date back to Lemuel.

"Bill Gun" was so nick-named to distinguish him from a contemporary William, who lived in the "Old Red House" and was a cordwainer, or shoemaker, and was known as "Bill Slipper".

THE FRENCH NEUTRALS — THE ACADIANS

It may prove of interest to record what is known about the Acadians, the families of French Neutrals who were placed by the Provincial Government in Sherborn, Holliston, and Hopkinton.

You will remember that Canada, or New France, was taken over by assault by British troops and soldiers from Massachusetts and the Province of Maine. This was in 1755, I believe. With the exception of those inhabitants who lived in Nova Scotia, no attempt was made to disturb the French population of the conquered territory; but it was decided to evacuate the French people in Nova Scotia, and this was done. At first, many were removed to Massachusetts towns and boarded out by the Province at a shilling per person, per week. It seems evident that the towns were a bit hostile, and the welcome extended to these unfortunate people was far from cordial.

They had taken no active part in the defense of New France, and were in every sense of the word "neutrals". To put it mildly, their evacuation from their homes was barbaric. Families were broken up and kin separated. Longfellow had been their champion — read "Evangeline".

We find in 1760 the Selectmen of the Towns of Sherborn, Holliston, and Hopkinton meeting to discuss the problem of the care of those French to be quartered hereabouts. This resulted as follows: To Sherborn were allotted Joseph Degan, and Mary and Monique, his children. Monique was probably Monica. To Holliston went Issidore Gordeau, his wife Madeline, and Joseph, their child. To Hopkinton went Anne and Elizabeth Degan and Margaret Gordeau.

You will notice from this, there were two families, Degan and Gordeau. Evidently Degan's wife was not alive and that his children were split up between Sherborn and Hopkinton. It is evident, also, that one of the Gordeau children, Margaret, was separated from her parents and brother. Most of the children in the two families were girls, so that the names Degan and Gordeau would disappear with this generation, carried on only by Joseph Gordeau. Tradition has it (and probably right) that Joseph Degan and his two children, Mary and Monique, were cared for by Simeon Leland, who was born in 1730 and resided on the Leland farm, still owned by his descendant, James F. Leland. One thing that substantiates this tradition is the fact that there is still owned, by one of Simeon's descendants, a rough, little, pine cradle, known as the French Neutral Cradle, and said to have been brought from Nova Scotia by the family cared for by Simeon. It also might prove one of the children was a baby.

What eventually became of this little family, no one seemed to know, but that they remained with Simeon for many years, probably until 1775, is fairly certain. In 1775 payment of their support would stop, as the Provincial Government went out of existence. There seems to be but one link that ties in with the perpetuation of this strain of French blood in our community, and that is the marriage of David Leland to Phoebe Despeau. David was born in 1782 and died in 1838. He had one child, Henry, who died in 1847. He married Sally Leland Cousins, a widow, and daughter of Eli Leland.

Willard Leland, who seemed to know much about this family, in spite of his peculiarities, told me that this Phoebe Despeau was a descendant of French

Neutrals. Willard was born in an old house, just over the town line, in what is now Millis. This house was constructed in part of heavy oak plank, originally a part of the Bullard Fort, and some of these planks had loop holes in them.

If there are any descendants of the French who were assigned to Holliston and Hopkinton, I am not aware of it.

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